

It has been a pleasure and a challenge to serve as a Councilmember since October 2019. I am running for a full two-year term because I love Garrett Park and want the best for our Town and residents. Art and I chose Garrett Park as home to raise our family after admiring the view from MARC train commutes over 20 years ago. My top priority is transparency, open communication, and collaboration between the Council, the Mayor, Town staff, committees, and residents. Please mail your ballot by May 4 and consider voting for me as Councilmember.

If elected, I will ensure the Council completes the opt-in to the County's pesticide code to protect Town trees, our health, and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which I introduced as an ordinance this month. I will follow through with an information campaign for residents. I will also complete our survey of resident interest in expanding compost pick up service in Town and lead the development and implementation of proposals for expansion based on the results. I am learning a lot working with our dedicated Arboretum Committee and look forward to helping them implement the Comprehensive Arboretum Plan they published in October. Being confined primarily to Garrett Park these past six weeks has reminded me how lucky we are to be in a walkable community and how important it is to preserve our beautiful treescape.

I've been impressed with our Town office's response and communications during the coronavirus crisis, but we can always improve. I will continue to spearhead updates to the Town's emergency plans and protocols. I would like to work with the County to address our stormwater drainage issues as quickly as possible. I will continue to facilitate communication and transparency as we complete and consider expansion of the Safe Routes to School project. It's important for the Town to plan and schedule maintenance and appropriate upgrades to its buildings and facilities, such as Town Hall and Penn Place. Additionally, it is critical for the Town to stay abreast of development in the surrounding area, such as placement of 5G and small cell towers, and advocate for Garrett Park's interests as impacts are considered.

I'm pleased to share my professional and volunteer management skills to benefit Garrett Park. Previously, I served as Chair of the Garrett Park Elementary School Education Foundation and Chair of the Town Parks and Open Space Committee. I served as President, Treasurer, and Renovations manager at the Garrett Park Nursery School 2007-2013. Our team of volunteers negotiated a no-cost transfer of the facility to Town ownership and raised and managed nearly \$400,000 in donations, private loans, and a state grant to renovate the Garrett Park Community Center. Currently, I serve as Treasurer of the Garrett Park Community Fund which benefits the Ilah Gieser music scholarships and Betsy White charitable fund.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out at gerileebennett@icloud.com or 301-651-0613, to discuss any issues with me.

Sincerely,

Gerilee Bennett

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